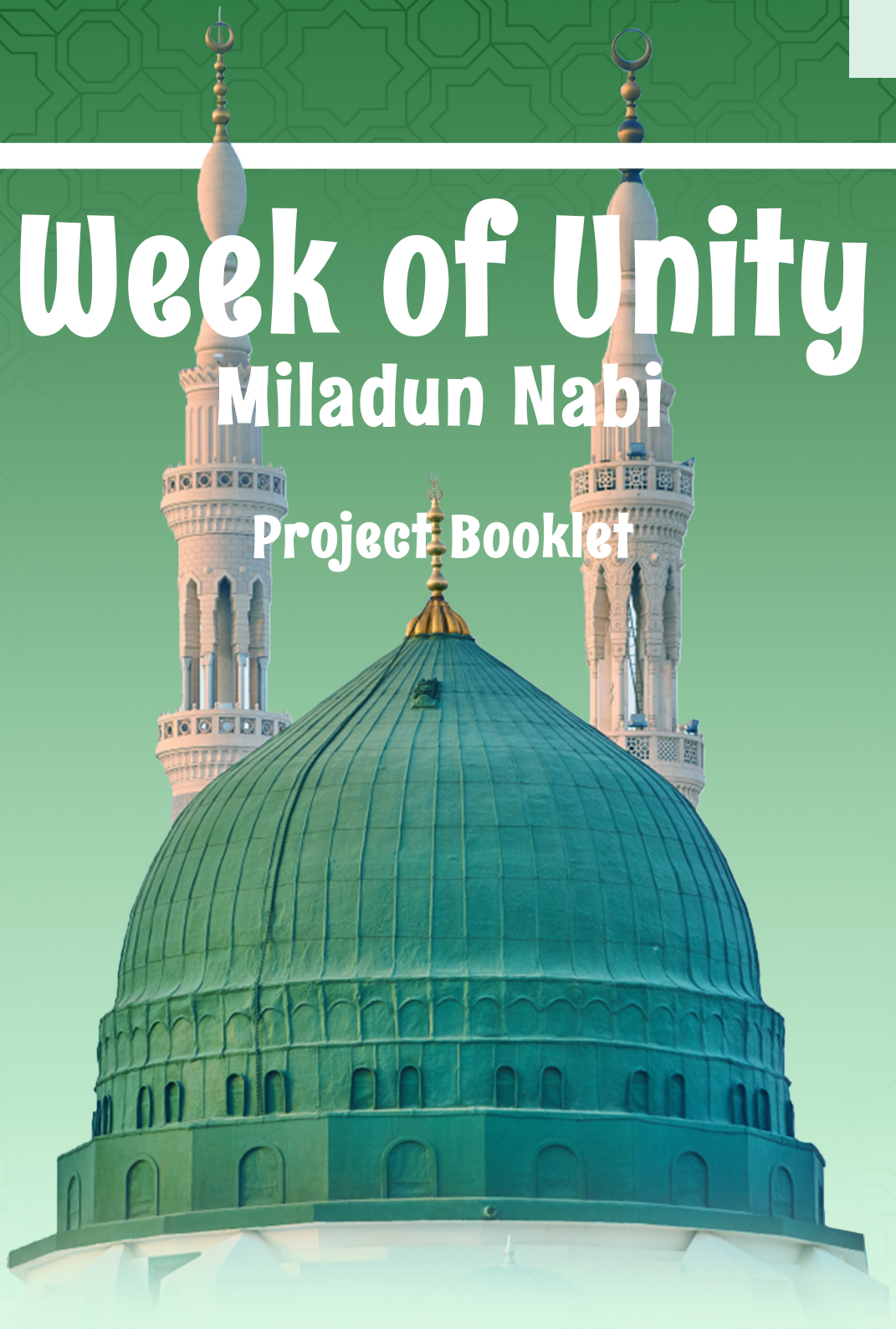
Book 1

Week of Unity

Miladun Nabi

Project Booklet



Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the Razvi & Khan families
and Naseem Kausar,
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Rabīʿ al-Awwal

1st	Migration of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) from Mecca to Medina
8th	Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa)
9th	Eid az-Zahrāʾ; Imāmah of 12th Imām (ʿaj) begins
10th	Marriage anniversary of Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Lady Khadījah
12th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) (by some traditions)
12-17th	Week of Unity
15th	Masjid al-Qūbaʾ, the first Islamic mosque, is constructed
17th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa)

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Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of those who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

al-islam.org
Islam from the Start: Unity is Strength
Meaningful Mama: Teaching Kids Forgiveness
Tales of the Last Messenger by Kisa Publications
40 Hadith for Children Activity Book by Kisa Publications

Danielle's Place: Prayer Folding craft
Ayeina: Hadith Arches craft
Tales from a Very Busy Mama: Wrinkled Heart activity

cover:
wordpress.com

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ

O you who have faith! Answer Allah and the Messenger when he invites you to that which will give you life.

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah (swt) bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj), our great marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim ummah on the wilādah of the best human being created on earth, the hope and mercy of the worlds, the perfect example and role model for mankind, our Noble Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and on the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

At the time of the Prophet's birth, in the entire Arabian Peninsula, an area where tens of thousands of people lived, the number of people that were literate, could read and write, was less than 17! At that time, people did not have any basic rights; there were no civil rights. People and tribes would fight for years over small, petty things. They would bury their daughters alive and be proud of it. Women had no rights and were treated like property. There was no form of education. All of these factors and more propagated a culture of jāhiliyyah, ignorance. It was during this time that Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was born.

The Prophet (ṣ) had the difficult task of winning the hearts and minds of the people in this era of jāhiliyyah. He had a unique opportunity with the dynamics and conditions of the time, and had several political strategies he could have used to win the hearts of the people. He could have preached for the freeing of slaves, since one third of the people in Mecca were slaves. He could have preached for women's rights, and bring half the population on his side with a feminist movement. He could have preached for equality and support for the poor, since at that time the difference in wealth and living conditions was very obvious. He could have preached for education. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) did not choose any of these political strategies and make his slogan cater to any one group. In fact, he made the slogan of tawḥīd, which was: "Qūlū Lā ilāha illallāh tuflihū"—"Say, 'there is no god except Allah,' and you will be successful." This slogan of tawḥīd was a foundational slogan that would eventually support all of the oppressed.

However, with the slogan of Lā ilāha illallāh, tawḥīd, and the Oneness of God, the Prophet (ṣ) did not have the sympathy of anyone! No one, not the slaves, the women, the poor, the illiterate, the youth, could accept the concept of tawḥīd. The one unifying factor they all had in common was their polytheistic beliefs, their idols. They could argue about many topics, but their idols were very special to them and for them the idols were a source of peace, prayer, and wishes. The concept of tawḥīd was bitter to all.

Alongside this slogan of Lā ilāha illallāh, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) reached out to the people with his akhlāq. He went and rooted compassion, mercy, and kindness into the hearts and minds of the people. With his great akhlāq, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was able to establish this slogan of tawḥīd in their hearts and minds. Together, the slogan of Lā ilāha illallāh and the great akhlāq of the Prophet (ṣ) freed and got justice for all who were oppressed and unprivileged.

After spending only a few years in Mecca with this method, the Prophet (ṣ) migrated to Medina. In Medina, he very quickly established a government. Within a few years, he freed the slaves, founded women's rights, created equality, educated people, and guided youth—all with akhlāq.

With the strength and belief in Lā ilāha illallāh, and with the instrument of akhlāq, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) gave true life to a people who were living but dead inside.

Indeed, the root cause to all of the disasters in the Muslim Ummah is that we have moved away from the akhlāq that is rooted in *Lā ilāha illallāh* and the fruits of this akhlāq that bring freedom, human rights, equality, and unity. Today, we are split by color, culture, race, language, madhhab (sect), and are fighting regarding things that go against the Prophet's (ṣ) great akhlāq. He taught us that in Islām, there is no Arab and non-Arab, there is no black and white, there is no male and female, there are no tribes; there is only taqwā (God-consciousness), and taqwā is not something we judge or measure—only Allah (swt) can.

So what can we do today? This year, let us focus on strengthening ties with our family. Create a culture of celebration in our homes our children can fully experience to help build and cultivate the love of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) in their hearts. Reach out to other family members virtually with the kindness and akhlāq of the Prophet (ṣ). Speak to your children and family about the Prophet's (ṣ) akhlāq and the importance of being united, especially during trying times like these. We have to find other ways of remembering the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) and communicating with others, but alḥamdulillāh, we are blessed with so many skills and tools that can help us.

In honor of the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ), we are pleased to launch the Week of Unity Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our children and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allah's creations, inshāʾAllāh, we will become closer to Him.

Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network.

We pray that Allah (swt) gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

Jazākallāh khayrā and best wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Duʿāʾ for Unity

Objective: Children will learn a special duʿāʾ for staying united.

This week in the Islamic year is known as the Week of Unity. It is marked by the two dates of Prophet Muḥammad's wilādah, according to different traditions. We celebrate it on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal while other Muslims celebrate it on the 12th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal. Many Muslim scholars encourage us to celebrate the Noble Prophet's wilādah during the whole week, and to focus on unity, especially between the Ahlus Sunnah and Shīʿah brothers and sisters.

So why is it important to stay together and united? Let's take the example of a stick. Alone, it is very easy to break. Now think about a bunch of sticks tied together. Is it as easy to snap and break? No! Together, the sticks support each other and are strong, making it very difficult to break. That is how we should be with each other, united and strong, so that we are not easily broken. This applies not only for our communities, but even our families and households. There is even a special duʿāʾ that we can recite!

In the Battle of Badr, the Muslims were few in number, and it seemed like they would not win. However, with firm faith and the leadership of the Prophet (ṣ), they were able to gain victory. After winning the battle, the Prophet (ṣ) gathered all of the Muslim warriors and asked them to join hands and recite Duʿāʾ Waḥdah, or the Prayer of Unity. Today, we usually hold hands and recite this duʿāʾ at the end of Ṣalātul Jumuʿah.

Duʿāʾ Waḥdah Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Duʿāʾ folding template
- Crayons/colored pencils/ markers
- Scissors
- Hole puncher
- Yarn or ribbon

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the duʿāʾ template however you like.
2. Cut out all along the dotted line (the outermost edge of the box).
3. Fold along all of the horizontal lines in an accordion style fold.
4. Carefully punch a hole on either end where the circle is (you can also open up the folds and punch a hole in each circle).
5. Then, take the yarn or ribbon and tie one end several times to make a knot that won't go through the holes.
6. Take the other end of the yarn or ribbon and, with the paper folded along all of the lines, thread the yarn or ribbon through the holes from the bottom of the paper (the end of the duʿāʾ).
7. Now thread it down through the other set of holes and tie several knots to close it off.
8. Carefully pull the paper open from the top.

Duʿāʾ Waḥdah

Duʿāʾ for Unity

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

In the name of Allah, the All-Kind, the All-Merciful

1

لاَ إِلَهَ إِلاَّ اللهُ إِلهاً وَاحِداً وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, the (true) God, the One and we submit to Him (alone).

2

لاَ إِلهَ إِلاَّ اللهُ وَلاَ نَعْبُدُ إِلاَّ إِيَّاهُ، مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ

There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, and we do not worship anyone or anything other than Him, being sincere in our faith (to Him) even though the polytheists detest this!

3

لاَ إِلهَ إِلاَّ اللهُ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّ آبائِنَا الأَوَّلِينَ

There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, our Lord and the Lord of our fore-fathers.

4

لاَ إِلَهَ إِلاَّ اللهُ وَحْدَهُ وَحْدَهُ وَحْدَهُ، أَنْجَزَ وَعْدَهُ، وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ، وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ

There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, the One, the One, the One, the One who kept His promise and helped His servant and granted esteem to His army.

5

وَهَزَمَ الأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ، فَلَهُ الْمُلْكُ، وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ

And who left the other parties alone and abandoned (them).
So then to Him belongs the Kingdom and the Praise.

6

يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَ يُمِيتُ وَيُحْيِي

He gives life and causes to die, and He causes to die and He gives life.

7

وَهُوَ حَيٌّ لاَ يَمُوتُ، بِيَدِهِ الْخَيْرُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

And He is the Ever Living and shall never die and in His power is the goodness and He has power over all things.

اَللَّـهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

O Allah, bless Muḥammad (ṣ) and his family (ʿa).

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Equals in Humanity

Objective: Children will learn a saying of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) and how it relates to unity.

We've talked about the Week of Unity and the importance of being united. Being kind is one of the main ways we can show and maintain unity with other people. When we are kind, we create an environment of good akhlāq, or manners, and encourage others to be kind as well. So, how do we know whom to be kind toward? Let's take a look at what our first Imām, Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), has said.

When Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) was the khalīfah of the Muslims, he appointed his companion Mālik al-Ashtar as the governor of Egypt. At that time, Egypt had many different people of different cultures and religions. He wrote a letter to Mālik, advising him on how to be a good leader. In the letter, Imām ʿAli (ʿa) advised Mālik to fill his heart with mercy and kindness for others. He said, *"[People] are of two kinds: either they are your brothers in faith or your equals in humanity."*[1] This shows that we share a basic characteristic with everyone: being human. We should treat everyone with kindness and respect, regardless of whether or not they share our beliefs.

Think about friends from school or outside of your community. When you spend time with them, playing or hanging out, do you mistreat them and act rude toward them? Of course not! Even though they may not believe in the same things you do, you still treat them with respect. They are humans and creations of Allah (swt), so even if we disagree with them, we should maintain good akhlāq toward them. Respect is an important part of having good akhlāq and promotes kindness and maintains a certain level of unity.

1Nahj al-Balāghah, Letter #53: An Order to Mālik al-Ashtar.

Hugging Hands

Suggested Ages: 5+

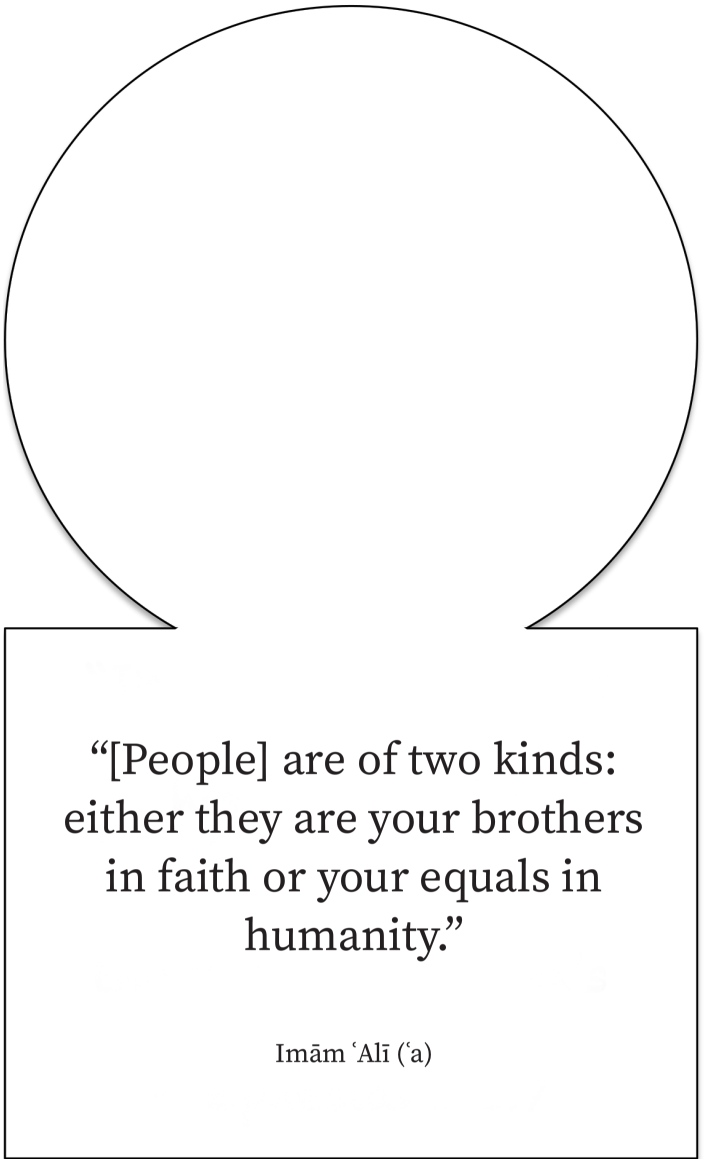
Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Hands and ḥadīth template
- Colored paper
- Crayons/colored pencils/ markers
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

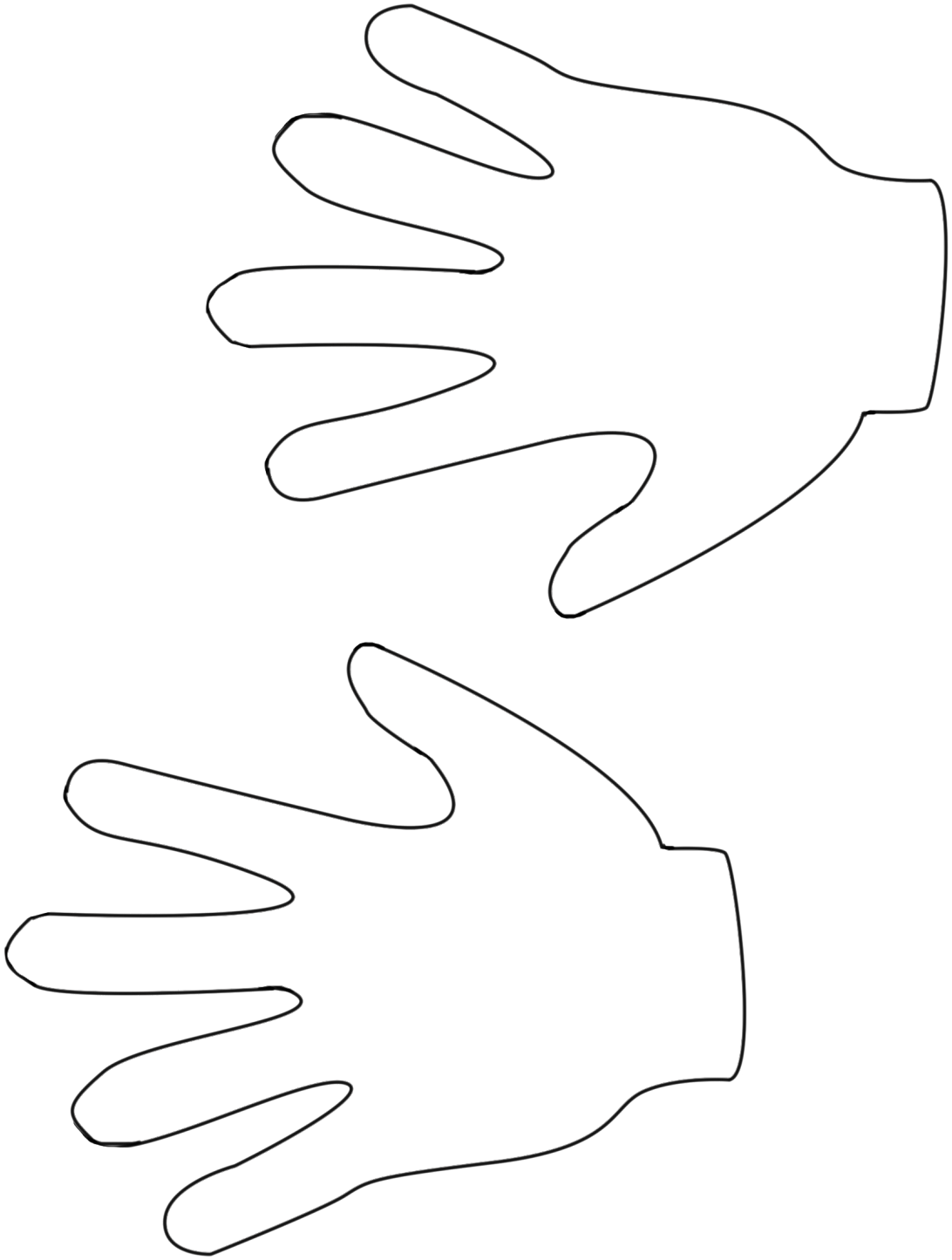
Procedure:

1. Draw a face in the blank circle above the ḥadīth. Color and decorate the face and hands however you like.
2. Cut out all of the pieces all along the outer edges.
3. Take the colored paper and cut a 3 inch wide strip of paper and fold it into thirds. This should make 3 sections.
4. Then glue the square portion of the ḥadīth piece to the middle section, with the face sticking past the rectangle piece.
5. Now glue the hands at the wrist to either end of the rectangle strip. When it folds, the two hands should touch.



“[People] are of two kinds: either they are your brothers in faith or your equals in humanity.”

Imām ʿAlī (ʿa)



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A Mercy for All of the Worlds

Objective: Children will learn about Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and one of his titles.

During this week, we have talked about kindness and how it is an important part of staying united. We've also discussed respect and how it is a way of being kind. There is a special kind of kindness called mercy. When we describe Allah (swt) in "Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm," we are saying that He is merciful. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) is also described as being a mercy to mankind.

One of the Prophet's titles is Raḥmatun lil-ʿĀlamīn. In the Qurʾān, Allah (swt) says, *"We did not send you except as a mercy to all the nations."*[1] In this verse, we see that the Prophet (ṣ) was sent to this world for the purpose of being a mercy for all of the worlds. Allah (swt) is saying that the Prophet (ṣ) is a mercy for everyone, believers and non believers, and for all other creations.

Think about what Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) has done for the world. He brought Islam, the true and most complete religion that teaches us how to live successfully in this world and have the best result for the next world. He taught us about Allah (swt) and how to worship Him. He taught us to have the best akhlāq and all about the rights of every human. The time before Islam was a time of jāhiliyyah, of ignorance. Through his actions and teachings, the Prophet (ṣ) brought us from the dark place of ignorance into the light of maʿrifah, the light of Islam that guides us to Allah (swt). It is a kindness that we are benefitting from even till today!

1Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah al-Anbiyāʾ (21), Verse 107.

Paper Flowers Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

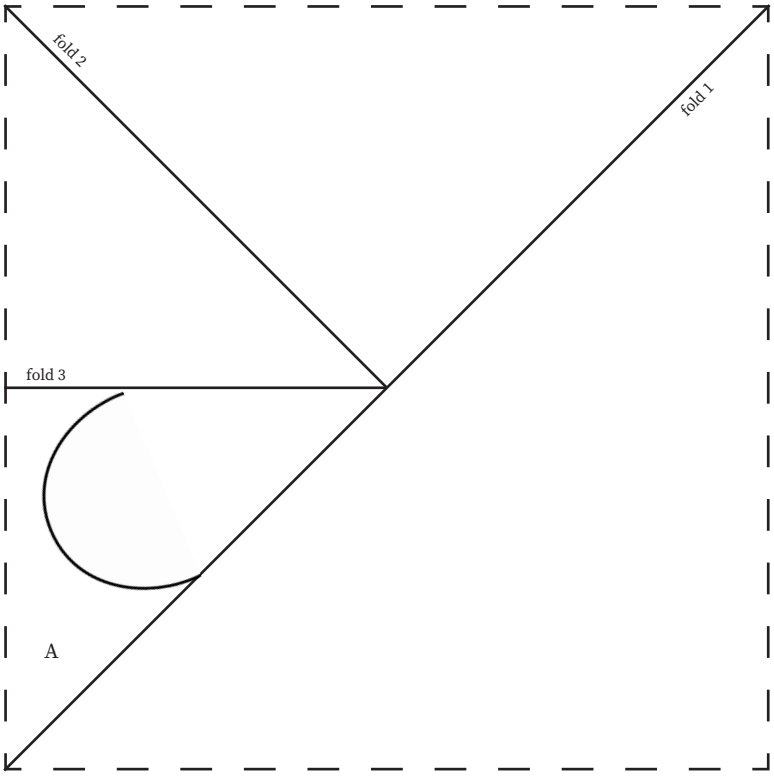
Time: 30 minutes

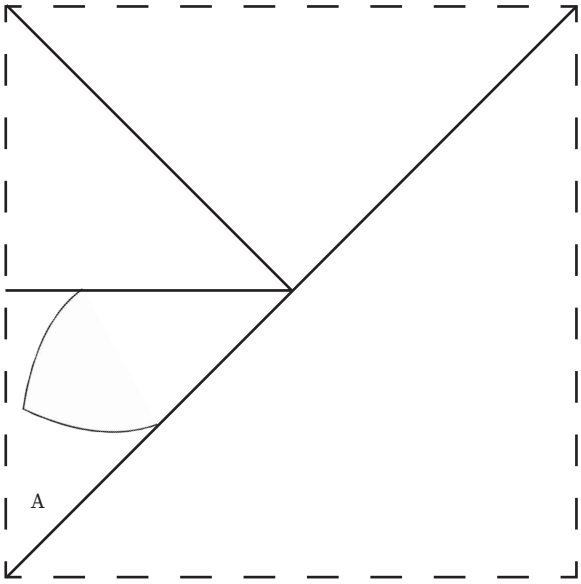
Materials:

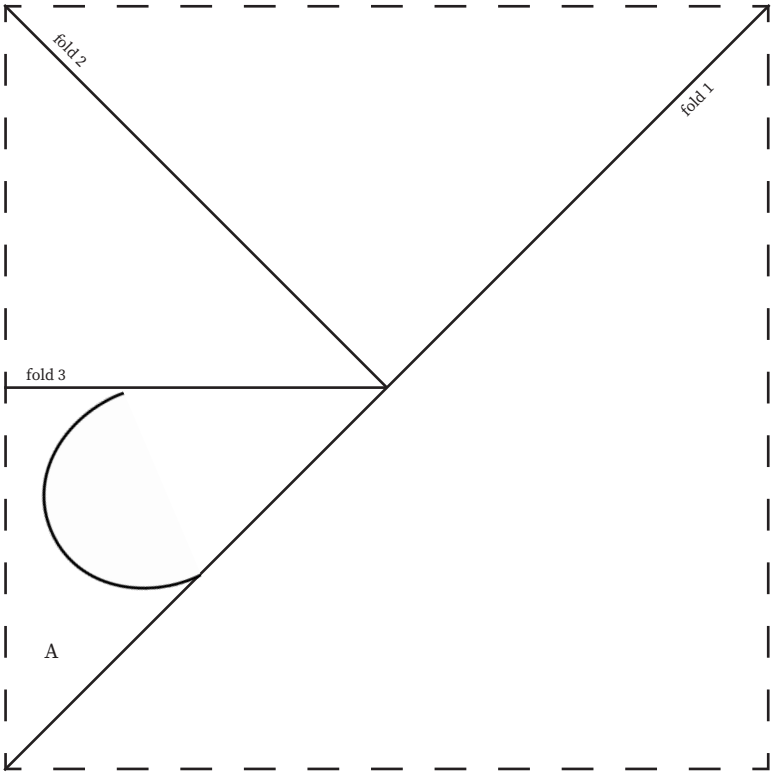
- Flowers and āyah template
- Colored paper
- Crayons/colored pencils/ markers
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

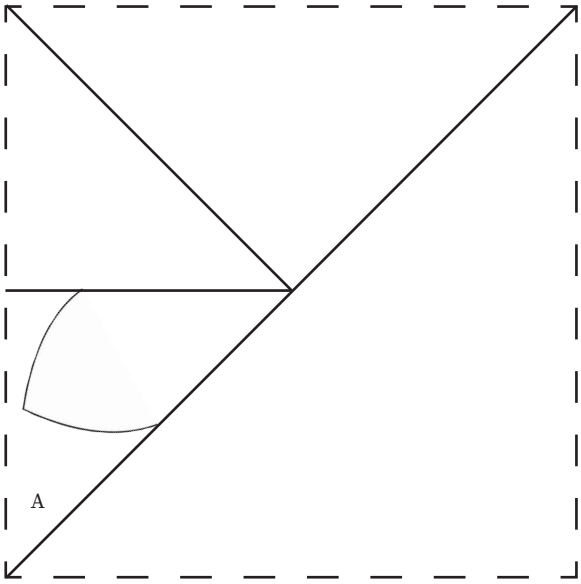
Procedure:

1. Cut out the pieces of the template.
2. Take one of the squares and fold it along the line labeled 1. Be sure the side with the "A" is face up.
3. Then fold it again 2 more times along lines 2 and 3. The "A" should be face up.
4. Carefully cut along the curved line on side "A". When you open up the folds, it should make a flower. Color and decorate the flower however you like.
5. Now carefully cut along one of the fold lines in between 2 petals, but only up till the middle. Put one of those petals behind the other and line them up, to make a kind of 3D flower. Tape or glue it closed.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 for the other squares to make more flowers (Optional: make squares out of colored paper and do the same to make flowers).
7. Now attach the flowers to the colored piece of paper by gluing or taping just some of the petals to the colored paper. You can add other things, such as grass, sun, clouds, etc on your paper to make a whole scenery.
8. Glue the āyah translation box somewhere on the page.









bigger square = 4 inches
smaller squares = 3 inches

"We did not send you except as a mercy to all the nations."

Noble Qurʾān 21:107

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A Place for Everyone

Objective: Children will learn about the Prophet's akhlāq.

Earlier we talked about how Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) is a mercy for all of the worlds by teaching us good akhlāq. He and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) had the best akhlāq. Let's look at a story from the life of the Prophet (ṣ).

Once, the Prophet's companions were sitting together, when they were joined by a man who had all sorts of unpleasant patches on his face. The companions looked at the man's face and stood up in disgust to sit elsewhere. No one wanted to sit near him! The poor man was heartbroken that his fellow Muslims would treat him so horribly just because he looked different than them. The man was deeply upset and so overwhelmed that he did not know what to do or where to go. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was seated nearby and saw how others were treating this man. He himself went and sat next to the man. When the man looked up and saw the Prophet (ṣ) sitting beside him, he was overcome with joy and gratitude. The Prophet (ṣ) smiled and began a pleasant conversation to help him feel less lonely.[1]

With this simple act of humanity, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) showed us that no one should be treated differently just because they look different. Allah (swt) created people in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some people may look different—maybe they had an accident that resulted in a disability or scar, or they were born with a birthmark or unique feature. Instead of shunning them, we should aim to be like the Prophet (ṣ) and celebrate the unique qualities that Allah (swt) has blessed them with.

1Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 73, P. 206.

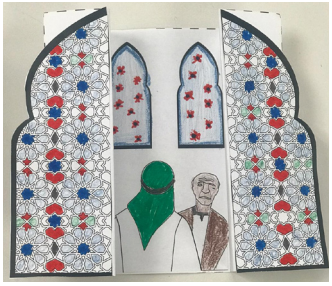
Unity Arch Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 35 minutes

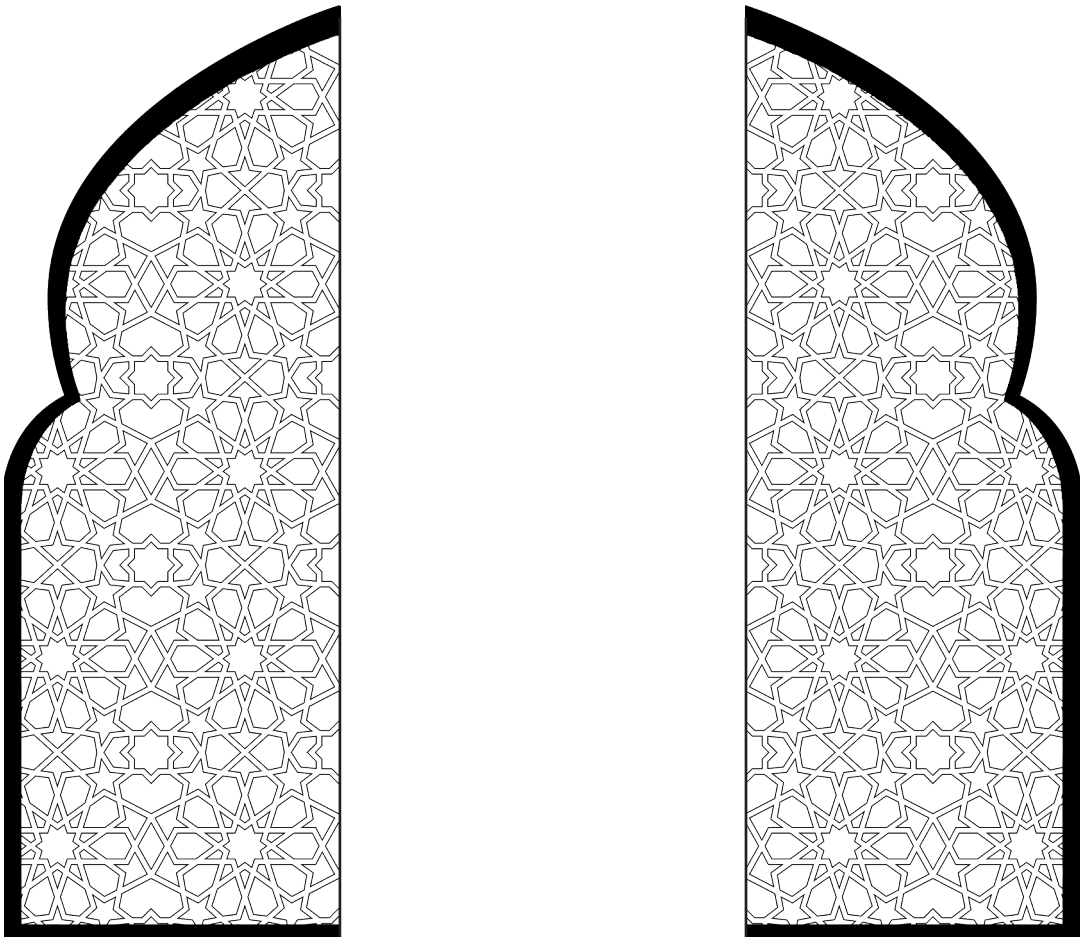
Materials:

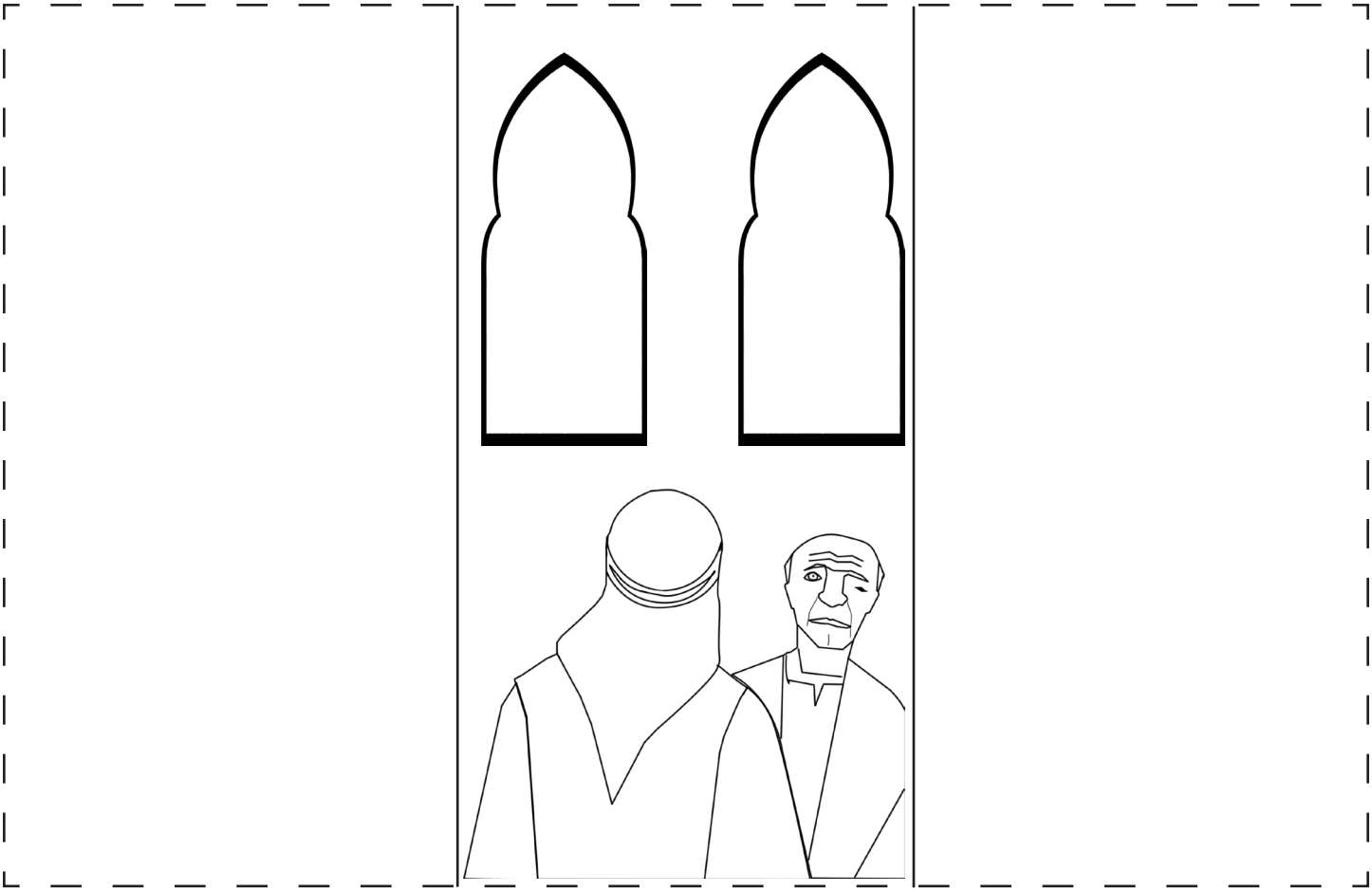
- Unity arch template
- Crayons/colored pencils/ markers
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Optional: colored paper



Procedure:

1. Colour and decorate the pictures of the template however you like.
2. Cut out the 2 halves of the arch and the rectangle piece with the image inside (Optional: you can make your own arch halves using colored paper).
3. Take the rectangle piece and fold along the 2 vertical lines. This should make 3 sections in the rectangle, and the middle section should have the image of the Prophet (ṣ) and the poor man.
4. Then, fold the outer 2 sections in half by taking the outer edge of the paper and folding toward the folded line. This should make 2 flaps.
5. Now glue or tape each arch half on each flap, to make an opening door with the image inside. Be sure the inside edge of the arch is aligned with the folded edge of the flap.





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Speaking Kindly to Others

Objective: Children will learn a saying of Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) about speaking kindly.

On the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal, along with the wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), we celebrate the wilādah of our 6th Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). There are many lessons from Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa), but today, we will focus on the manners of speaking. He has said, *"Make us [Allah and the Ahlul Bayt] proud of you and speak nicely to people."*[1] In this ḥadīth, Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) is telling us that one way we can make Allah (swt) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) happy and proud is by speaking with kindness to others and having good akhlāq, or manners, when interacting with other people. Subḥānallāh! Don't we want to make Allah (swt) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) feel proud of our good deeds?

What are some ways to speak kindly to others? The first thing we should do is greet people nicely, and if they are Muslim, we should say "Salāmun ʿalaykum." Another thing we can do is make sure we don't use any mean nicknames or other bad words when talking to others. When we say something mean to a person, it has an effect on their heart—an effect that may not go away even if we say sorry. That is why we should be careful of what we say and try to always speak kindly to others.

1 Shaykh Ṭabarsī, *Mishkāt al-Anwār fī Ghurar al-Akhbār*, Ḥadīth #943.

Wrinkled Heart Activity

Suggested Ages: 5+

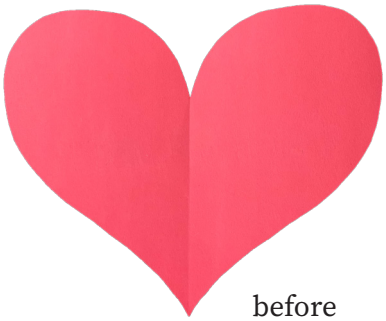
Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Heart template
- Crayons/colored pencils/ markers
- Scissors
- Optional: colored paper

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the heart however you like.
2. Cut out the heart all along the outer edge.
3. Now, think about some unkind things you could say to a person. For each unkind thing, fold the heart in some odd place. Keep folding until the heart can't be folded any more.
4. Open up all of the folds and look at the heart. It is all wrinkled! Even if you flatten and smooth it out, it will still have all of the fold lines. This is how a person's heart becomes when we say something unkind. We should try to speak kindly to others, and make Allah (swt) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) happy.
5. Optional: cut a heart out from a colored paper and follow from step 3.



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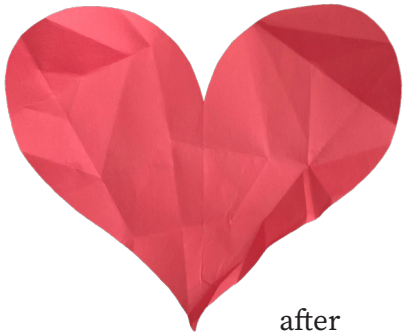

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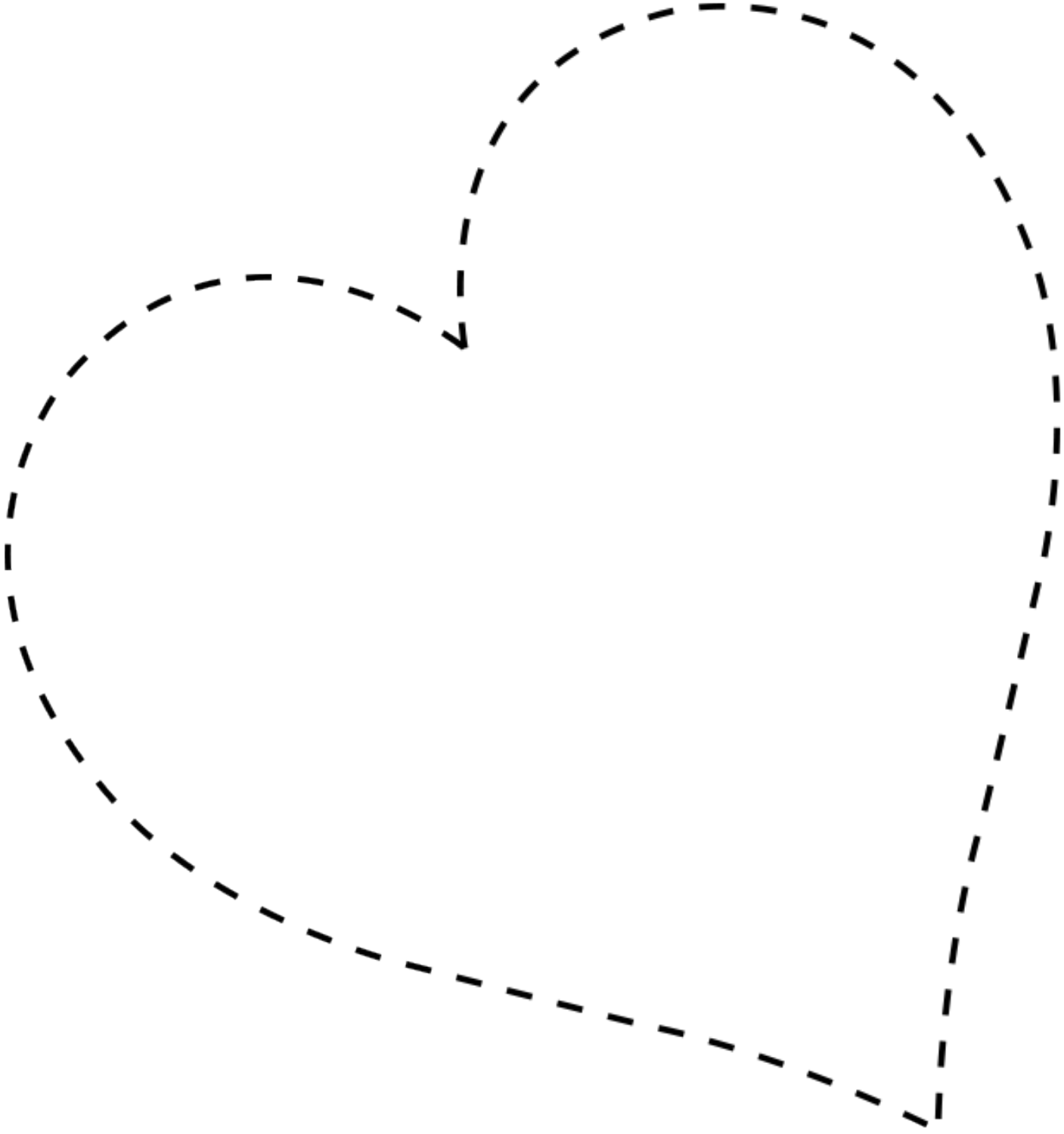

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